

Title: Trust in the God Who Provides

Passage: Genesis 22:1-14

Draft Summary:

I. God wants to test Abraham.

A. Test to fear God

B. Test to have faith in God

II. Isaac was taught a lesson of faith

III. God's plan is to point out His character

A. God's tenderness

B. God's faithfulness

C. God's provision

Application:

- Recognize the depth of God's love for you to send His Son to die on the cross to fully satisfy the wrath that our sin deserves.
- If God has provided for our greatest need (need for forgiveness of sins), wouldn't He provide for anything else we need in our life?

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How has God showed Himself as Your provider in your life?
 - What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Americans are among the most stressed people in the world (same level as Afghanistan)

- stressed about: work conditions, political instability, material provision, etc.

Question: Why is God trustworthy?

- He is the only one who can address the issues of the heart.
- How is God worthy of provision and trust? See Genesis 22.

Passage:

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

EXPOSITION

Overview

- I. God wants to test Abraham.
- II. Isaac was taught a lesson of faith
- III. God's plan is to point out His character

I. GOD WANTS TO TEST ABRAHAM

Genesis 22:1

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

- God allows us to go through trials
 - Not to destroy

- But to teach
- Distinction
 - Temptations by Satan are to get the worst out of us
 - Common among all (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life)
 - Trials are allowed by God to get the best out of us.
 - Tailor-made and unique for each one of us.
- Testing/Trials
 - Used by God to grow us in the school of faith. To graduate from one level to another.
 - If not tested, how do we know where we are at?
- Timing
 - This test to Abraham occurred later in life
 - Test to leave home
 - Test of famine (Gen 12)
 - He went to Egypt instead of staying (failed)
 - Test of choosing land
 - He allowed Lot to choose and wisely chose the other.
- Reason for the test to Abraham
 - What it means to fear God. (v.12).
 - What it means to have faith in God.

A. Test to Fear God

Genesis 22:12

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

- Caution
 - This passage is not about giving up our children. This was a unique situation for Abraham.
 - God had promised Abraham an offspring and He provided a son.
- Actual Test of Abraham (and for us):
 - Do you love Me for what I give you or for Who I am.

Job 1:21

And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

- God tests us what seems to be unbearable to do what is impossible.
 - Do we fear Him for who He is?

B. Test to have Faith in God

Genesis 22:5

Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

- meaning: Abraham says both me and my son will go and come back to you.

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- The three days preceding the sacrifice, Abraham was likely thinking:
 - God is faithful in His promises.
 - He gave a son in my old age.
 - God is wise and good and kind.
 - God does not lie and cannot contradict Himself. I don't understand it.
 - But God will resurrect my son to keep His promise. God will provide a way where there seems to be no way.

What to do? Trust in God.

- God is faithful to His promises.

II. ISAAC WAS TAUGHT A LESSON OF FAITH

- At this passage, Isaac was at least 14 years old if not older.
 - He was able to carry wood and ask about the sacrifice.
- Abraham was 120 years old.
 - As a normal 15 year old, wouldn't he be tempted to run away or fight back?

- Isaac chose to be still and be submitted to his father's direction.
 - Recognized that his father walked with God, who never failed him.
- Application thoughts:
 - Would your kids see your faith such that they would trust you with their lives?
 - Is Christ truly the center of your life and do your kids see your faith in sincerity?
 - While we cannot change our kids hearts (only God does), can they at least say their parents live out their faith?

III. GOD'S PLAN IS TO POINT OUT HIS CHARACTER

A. God's tenderness

Genesis 22:2

He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

- Take your son, your only son Isaac
 - God appreciate the cost of what He was asking Abraham to do.

B. God's faithfulness

- "Your only son" - God recognized this was the only son of the promise. He knew the background of Isaac's life.
- "Land of Moriah" = pointed that God will provide.

C. God's provision

Genesis 22:13-14

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

- Why "The LORD will provide" and not "The LORD has provided"?
- Abraham knew that the ram was not sufficient or the end but that there would be another greater Sacrifice that would pay for all sins (Jesus).

Jesus is foreshadowed in different ways in this passage:

- As Isaac was the only son
 - Jesus is the only son.
- Location is on Mount Moriah
 - Calvary where Jesus died on the cross is on Mount Moriah (2 Ch 3:1)
- Three days, Abraham walked (he had a change of heart where his son and resurrects)
 - Jesus died and resurrected after three days.
- Isaac carried his own wood
 - Jesus carries his own cross
- Question asked about the lamb offering
 - Jesus is identified as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.
- Willingness of the son to be sacrificed
 - Jesus was willing to lay down His life (Jn 10:16-18)

John 10:16-18

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

APPLICATION

Recognize the depth of God's love for you to send His Son to die on the cross to fully satisfy the wrath that our sin deserves.

If God has provided for our greatest need (need for forgiveness of sins), wouldn't He provide for anything else we need in our life?

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Matthew 6:25-26

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.